

The African Conquests

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fugitives as wished to return in peace, and assured the people that the laws would be respected as long as they paid the *geziah* to the King. By such moderation Roger and his successor were able to retain Tripoli for twelve years, and it remained a most important centre for their commercial and political relations with Africa,

The politic treatment of Tripoli struck the keynote for Roger's future acquisitions on the Moslem coast. The capture of the city was immediately followed by the nomination of a native wali, and a native cadi, to act for the Moslems and be responsible for the collection of the *geziah* or poll-tax; their civil authority was left untouched by the military commander of the Norman garrison.

A policy so unusual was widely remarked among the Moslems of North Africa, It inclined the princes of the coast favourably towards Roger at a time when a fresh Moslem upheaval, that of the Berber Ajmolmdes, threatened to overwhelm at once the rulers of Spain, the Ziridites of Al Mahdia, and the recent power of the Hammadites. The petty emirs of Africa began to see in Roger a means of enhancing their own importance;

one of them,
Yusuf, governor of Gabe"s for the young
prince
Mohammed, son of Rasid, offered to
surrender that
city to the King on condition that he
should be
made wall, Roger replied from Sicily
that his
terms were accepted; but-El-Hasan,
suzerain of
Mohammed, appeared in time, and the
townsmen,
encouraged by his presence, rose and
massacred